

I support the elimination of the Morse Code requirement in Amateur Radio. Morse Code is no longer critical to the operation of a Amateur Radio station, and has not been for many years. Many people can spend a lifetime in this hobby/service and never use or **need** Morse Code. The requirement to demonstrate even a minimal proficiency in Morse Code, only limits the number of potential operators, and provides no benefit to the Amateur Radio Service. This was clearly recognized in the last century when the Code was dropped for the Technician Class. According to the FCC ruling at that time, the only reason the code requirement was left in for the higher classes, was it was required by the Radio ITU. Now that that requirement has been eliminated, the basis for the FCC to keep its Morse Code requirement is gone, and should be dropped immediately without any further discussion.

As for the argument that learning code will make you a better operator, that is clearly false, since if this was true, there currently would be no problems with operator courtesy and procedures on the HF bands, since they all had to pass the Code requirement to get those privileges.

As for the argument that, I had to learn it, so you should too, well, that argument has never worked. Progress moves on, even though people are sometimes unwilling to accept it. Forcing a person to learn a code that he/she has no particular interest to learn, nor any desire to use once he/she has passed the exam just to get additional frequency privileges does nothing but drive people away from this service/hobby, or unnecessarily limit their capabilities. If people want to use Morse Code, then let them, but don't require everyone

Thank you and I look forward to your expedited action on this matter, and the removal of the code proficiency requirement for the Amateur Radio Service.